

If implemented as proposed RM-11708 would have a negative impact on continuous wave (CW) and other narrow bandwidth modes including radio teletype (RTTY). Further, if implemented as proposed, RM-11708 would seriously hamper those stations running low power (QRP) and those performing weak signal reception work. Many low power transmitters/transceivers utilize operator built (homebrew) and experimental equipment designs. Frequently of simple design, employing relatively few electronic components and consuming scant electrical power (often generated by "green power" sources like solar and wind), this radio gear would face an RF spectrum filled with digital signals including digitized voice, Pactor 4 (requiring a specialized and expensive modem to decrypt) and automatic data stations. Such a situation would compromise the operation of simple and inexpensive radio equipment (no computer or modem needed) and create a barrier to getting on the air for new operators, young operators and those with limited funds.

Sufficient bandwidth on every amateur radio band must be set aside for narrow bandwidth modes so that every radio amateur, no matter their station's complexity, has a "level playing field" spectrum available to freely communicate, experiment and enjoy the operating privileges they've earned.